THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There is one High Power Transmitter (10 KW) and one Low Power Transmitter for DD-2 at Doordarshan Kendra, Silchar providing full time transmission. There is no authentic information about any widespread discontent regarding the functioning of this Station, and there is also no feed back about cultural aggression of the region by TV Centres of the neighbouring countries.

(b) Improvement in the content and extension of the duration of the programmes telecast by various Doordarshan Kendras is an ongoing and continuous process and action in this regard is taken from time to time subject to availability of requisite resources.

(c) Due to constraints of manpower and other infrastructural facilities, it is not possible to start Bengali local news bulletin from Doordarshan Kendra, Silchar.

अजमेर में हवाई अड्डे का निर्माण किया जाना

*87. श्री ओंकर सिंह लखावत: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अजमेर में हवाई अड्डे के निर्माण हेतु भूमि अधिगृहीत की जा रही है, यदि हां, तो कितनी;

(ख) क्या राज्य सरकार द्वारा अजमेर में हवाई अड्डे के निर्माण के लिए अधिगृहीत भूमि के लिए मुआवजा देने हेतु किसी राशि की मांग की गई है, यदि हां, तो यह राशि कितनी है;

(ग) क्या पूर्व नागर विमानन मंत्री ने अजमेर में हवाई अड्डे के निर्माण के लिए राशि प्रदान करने की घोषणा की थी; और

(घ) हवाई अड्डे का निर्माण कार्य कब तक प्रारंभ करने की संभावना है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) से (घ) अजमेर में एक नये हवाई अड्डे की स्थापना पर कुछ समय से जांच चल रही है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण के अध्ययन से पता चलता है कि वित्तीय दृष्टि से परियोजना व्यवहार्य नहीं है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण द्वारा अपनाई जा रही सामान्य नीति के अधीन राज्य सरकार द्वारा निःशुल्क भूमि प्रदान किये जाने की वचनबद्धता न निभा पाने और केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा बजटीय सहायता प्रदान न किये जाने के कारण, अजमेर में हवाई अड्डे के निर्माण किये जाने के बारे में अभी तक कोई अंतिम निर्णय नहीं लिया जा सकता है। राजस्थान सरकार ने अधिग्रहित की जाने वाली भूमि के लिए 2.5 लाख रुपए मांगे थे जबकि पूर्व नागर विमानन मंत्री ने राज्य सरकार को 2 करोड़ रुपए देने की इच्छा व्यक्त की थी। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण मामले की जांच कर रहा है।

Upgradation of Highways in Gujarat

*88. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRIMATI URMILA-BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals of the State Government of Gujarat in regard to important roads to declare/upgrade into National Highways are under consideration of the Central Government;

(b) whether the Minister of Roads and Buildings of Gujarat alongwith a delegation of M.Ps had a meeting with the former Minister of Surface Transport on 31st March, 1998 to highlight the pending proposals;

(c) if so, the details of discussion;

(d) which of the important links of State Highways were agreed to be upgraded into National Highways; and

(e) by what time the remaining Stateways are likely to be converted into National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Broadly the following issues were discussed:—

(i) Declaration/upgradation of important links of State roads to National Highways.

(ii) Release of Central Road Fund as per the resolution adopted by the two House of Parliament in May, 1988.

(iii) Four laning of NH No. 8B leading to Porbandar.

(iv) Allocation of more funds for National Highways (Original) works in Gujarat during 1998-99.

(v) Approval of projects submitted by Government of Gujarat.

(vi) Completion of Ahmedabad-Vadodara expressway.

(d) Following important links of State Highways were agreed to be accorded priority for declaration as National Highways, subject to availability of funds.

(i) Jetpur to Somnath via Junagarah and Veeraval.

(ii) Joining Hazira with Surat and Dhulia section of NH-6.

(e) The 9th Plan has not yet been finalised and it is not possible to give any definite time-frame for conversion of State Highways into National Highways.

Connecting major towns of Assam with Guwahati by air transport

*89. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to connect all the major towns of Assam with Guwahati and other major cities of India by air transport;

(b) whether Government propose to connect Guwahati with Tezpur, Jorhat, Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh by the same flight;

(c) whether Government propose to connect Dhubri with Guwahati by improving the aerodrome of Dhubri and introducing a flight; and

(d) whether Government porpose to give concessions to the passengers who are travelling to and fro to North-East as there is a demand for getting concession in airfare due to bottlenecks of surface transport to the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Jorhat, Lilabari, Silchar and Tezpur towns in Assam are already airlinked.

Dhubri (Rupsi) aerodrome is not fit for operation and it needs major renovation/ modification work. No scheduled airline has shown interest in operating to this place.

With a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services and taking into consideration the need for air transport services of different regions in the country particularly the North East Region, the Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines. The airlines are free to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

A proposal for dedicated air services to the North Eastern region is under formulation which envisages providing incentives to attract operators for connecting places in the North-East region.

(d) Fares on North-Eastern sectors are about 40% lower than the comparable sectors in the rest of the country.

Pending cases in Supreme Court and High Courts

*90. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases in Supreme Court and High Courts during the last three years in each category; and